

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05323 251714Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 FEAE-00
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O R 251645Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6831
ERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
ERDA GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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ERDA WASHDC FOR A.N. TARDIFF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR, BE, JA, UK, FRG
SUBJECT: LMFBR/LWR POWER COSTS

REF: STATE 059863

1. ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR LMFBR BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE FRG WERE ABOUT \$120 MILLION IN 1972; THESE
HAVE INCREASED TO ABOUT \$180 MILLION IN 1976.

2. CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES FOR LMFBR BY GERMANY
THROUGH 1976 ARE ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT \$900 MILLION.
INDUSTRIAL EXPENDITURES HAVE BEEN SMALL.

3. PROJECTED ROUGH ESTIMATE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES
BY GERMANY THROUGH 1981 IS ABOUT \$1.8 BILLION. THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 05323 251714Z

SNR-300 IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATION AT THAT TIME.
FINAL DECISION ON NEXT GENERATION OF LMFBR'S (I.E.
THE 1300 EMW SNR-2) WILL BE BASED ON COMPREHENSIVE
STUDIES PRIOR TO 1981 AND ON RESULTS OF SNR-300 OPERA-
TION. NO FISCAL DATA ARE AVAILABLE FOR POST-1981
PERIOD. CONSTRUCTION OF A SNR-2 WOULD REQUIRE GREAT
INCREASES IN ANNUAL EXPENDITURES. GERMAN UTILITIES

WOULD PRESUMABLY MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION.

4. RELIABLE HARD COSTS ON COMMERCIAL PROJECTIONS OF INVESTMENT AND OPERATING COSTS OF LMFBR ARE NOT AVAILABLE AND PROBABLY DO NOT EXIST IN GERMANY. MEANINGFUL PROJECTIONS OF COMMERCIAL COSTS REQUIRE EXTENSIVE PARAMETRIC COST ESTIMATES, WITH FUEL COSTS AS A FUNCTION OF TIME BEING HIGHLY SPECULATIVE.

5. THE ONLY COMPARATIVE DATA BETWEEN COMMERCIAL LMFBR AND LWR POWER PRODUCTION COSTS THAT COULD BE OBTAINED ARE IN ERDA-TR-159 OF JUNE 1975 TITLED "COMMENTS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF FAST BREEDER REACTORS IN THE DEBENELUX AREA" WHICH IS A TRANSLATION OF A STUDY CONDUCTED BY RESEARCH CENTER KARLSRUHE AND INTERATOM. PARA 1.7 AND PARA 2.5 DEAL WITH ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS. WE CAUTION NOT TO USE NUMBERS DERIVED FROM FIGURES OUT OF CONTEXT AS THE CALCULATIONS ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE CHOICE OF PARAMETERS. TO WEIGH THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DATA, COMPARE INPUT DATA OF TABLE 2.22 WHICH ARE VALID FOR 1980 - ASSUMED DATE OF LWR AND LMFBR COMMERCIAL COMPETITION - WITH NUMBERS OF 1990 WHEN LMFBR SHOULD BE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE.

6. RANGE OF UNCERTAINTY OF COMMERCIAL LMFBR PROJECTIONS, PARTICULARLY AS A FUNCTION OF TIME AND FUEL COSTS, IS SO SPECULATIVE THAT BMFT REPORTEDLY HAS DECIDED NOT TO RELEASE ANY NEW PROJECTIONS OF COMMERCIAL COSTS OF LMFBR.
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PAGE 03 BONN 05323 251714Z

7. AS INSTRUCTED, NO OFFICIAL OF FRG WAS CONTACTED ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS APPARENT FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT THERE IS EXTREME CONCERN AT THE BMFT ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DECISIONS THAT MAY BE MADE BY THE US ON THIS SUBJECT.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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